

Appl. No.: 10/676,860  
Amdt. dated 10/16/2006  
Reply to Office Action of 08/18/2006

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the pending rejections is respectfully requested. Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication that Claim 13 includes allowable subject matter. To place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 9 to include the subject matter of Claim 13 that the Examiner indicated was allowable. Specifically, Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite that the organic compound comprises carboxymethylcellulose. Claims 5 – 7 have been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims do not raise new issues because this amended subject matter was previously presented in Claim 13.

Claims 9 – 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for including the term “carbonaceous material.” Claim 9 has been amended to replace the term “carbonaceous material” with the term “carbon fiber or carbon cloth”. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification, for example page 11, line 25. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 has been overcome.

Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 7, and 9 – 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of several references. As noted above, the Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include allowable subject matter of Claim 13 and Claims 5 – 7 have been cancelled. Accordingly, it is submitted that the pending rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been overcome.

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### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that the pending rejections have been overcome and the pending claims are now in condition for immediate allowance. It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and

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any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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